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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/595,366	04/12/2006	Byung-moo An	1114.004	8238
21176	7590	06/06/2007	EXAMINER	
SUMMA, ALLAN & ADDITON, P.A.			RIPLEY, JAY R	
11610 NORTH COMMUNITY HOUSE ROAD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 200			3679	
CHARLOTTE, NC 28277				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/06/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/595,366	AN, BYUNG-MOO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jay R. Ripley	3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/25/2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04/12/2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Drawings

2. Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains language referring to the merits of the instant invention; i.e. in line 1, it is recited, "a pipe joint that provides a superior seal", and in lines 5-6, it is recited, "Therefore the durability of the product is improved and, as well, the productivity of the pipe joint increases". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

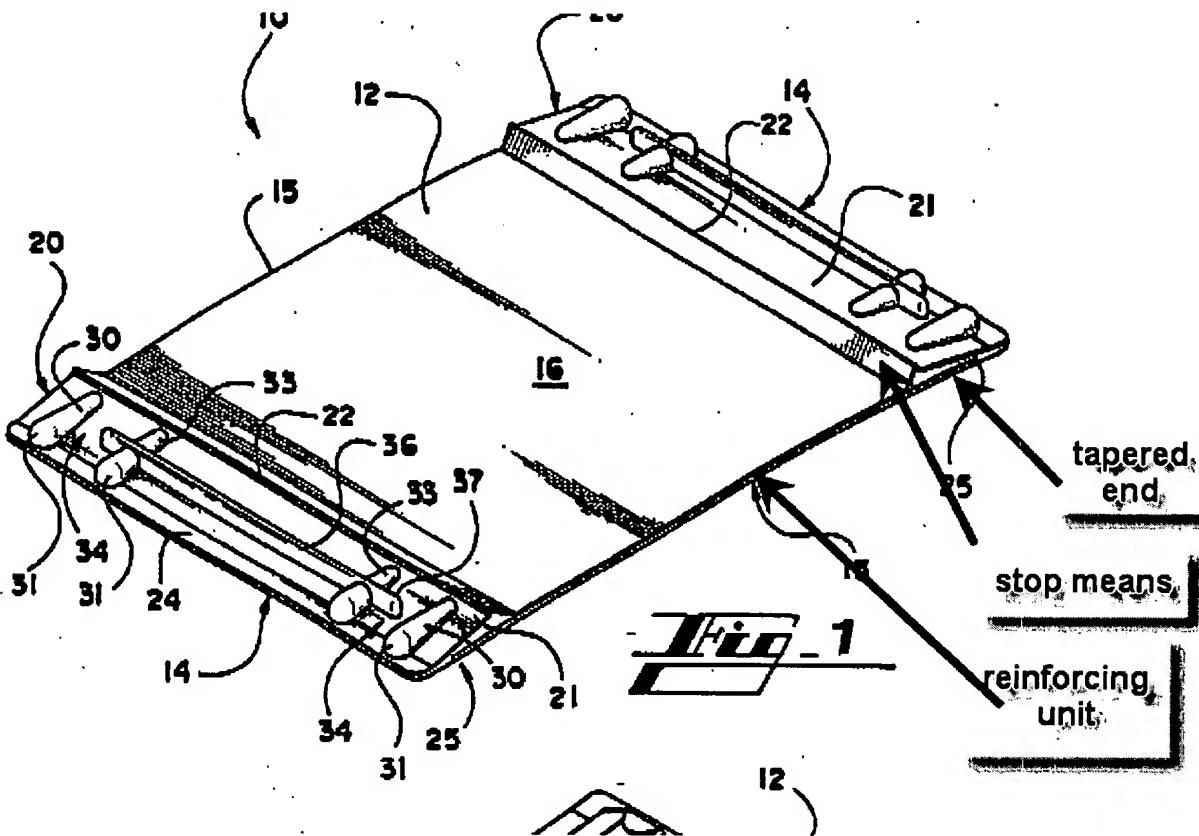
6. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bridges (U.S. 5,286,064).

7. In regard to claim 1, Bridges discloses in Figures 1, 4, 6, below, a pipe joint, comprising: a body part provided by rolling a planar material to form a cylindrical structure;

a coupling part having a bent surface at each of both ends of the body part, with a plurality of locking holes provided on the bent surface of the coupling part; locking means tightened into the locking holes to couple the both ends of the body part to each other; and

a reinforcing unit comprising a separate curved plate, the reinforcing unit being reduced in thickness at both ends thereof to be in close contact with an inner surface of the body part.

8. Note that the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of the patentability of the device itself. Therefore, the recitation of the limitation "provided by rolling a planar material to form a cylindrical structure" in lines 2-3 of claim 1 has been given little patentable weight.



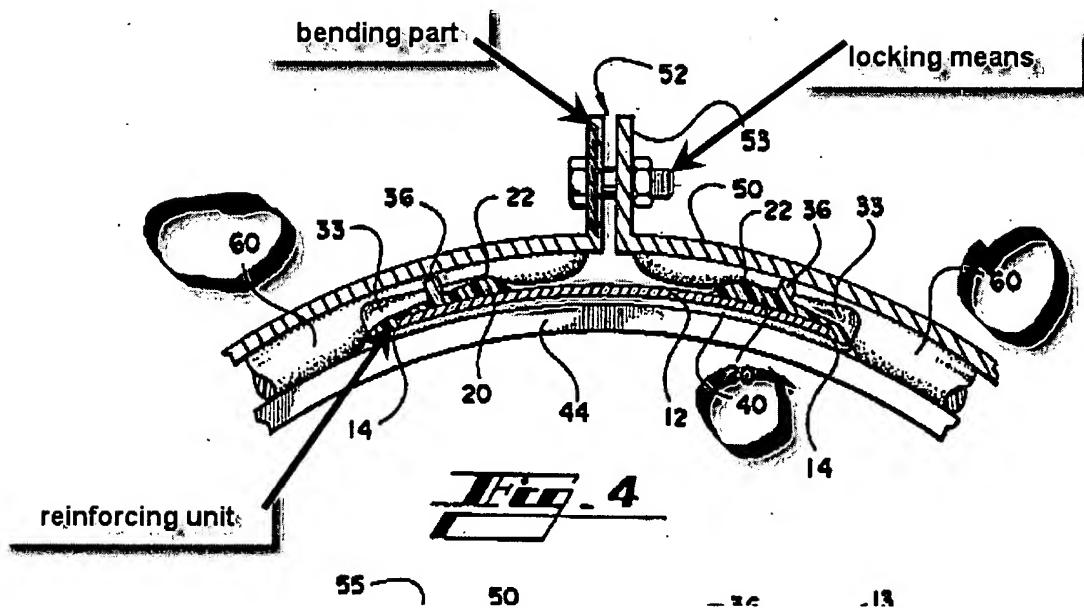
(Bridges Figure 1)

U.S. Patent

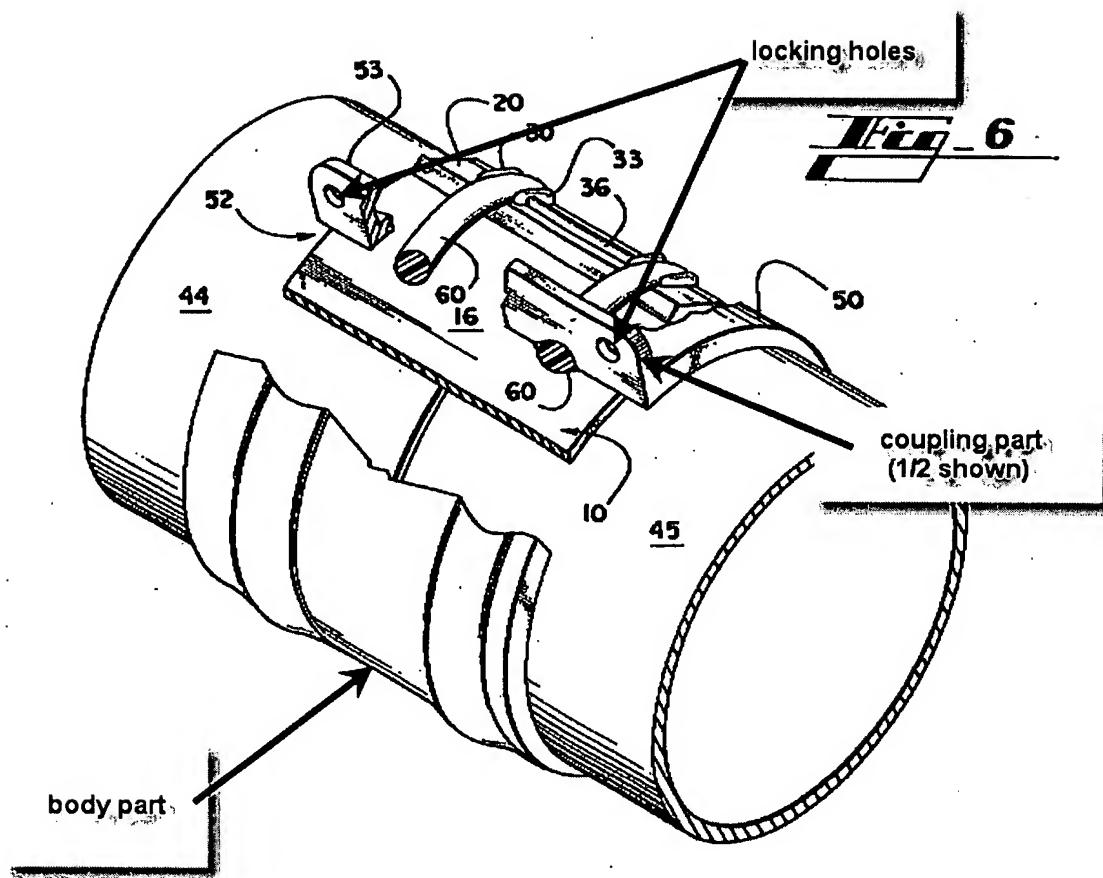
Feb. 15, 1994

Sheet 3 of 4

5,286,064

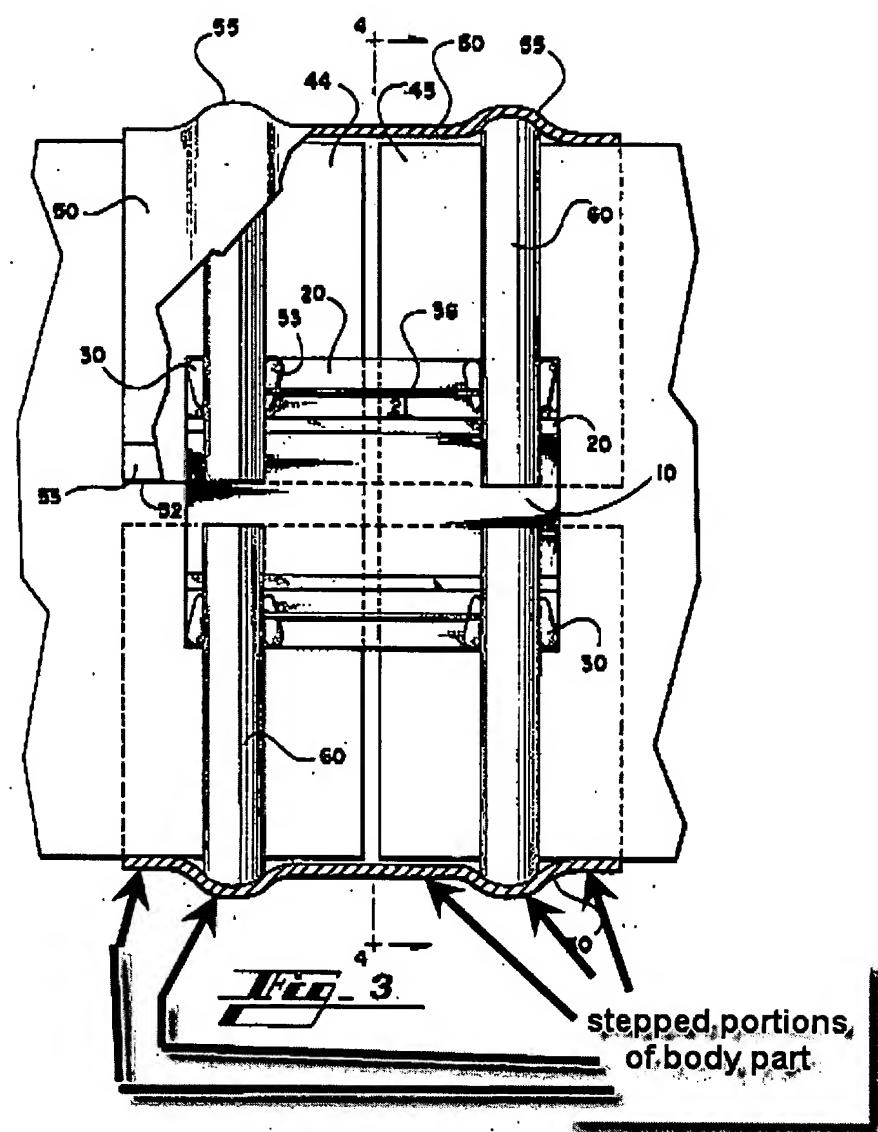


(Bridges Figure 4)



(Bridges Figure 6)

9. In regard to claim 2, Bridges further discloses in Figure 1, above, that the reinforcing unit further comprises a stop means having a stepped shape.
10. In regard to claim 3, Bridges further discloses in Figure 3, below, that the body part is stepped around a predetermined portion thereof so that upper and lower parts of the body part differ in inner and outer diameters from each other.



(Bridges Figure 3)

11. In regard to claims 4/1, 4/2, and 4/3, Bridges further discloses in Figure 4, above, a sealing unit provided inside each of the body part (arcuate gasket part 60) and the reinforcing unit (circumferential sealing pad part 40).

Art Unit: 3679

12. In regard to claims 5/4/1, 5/4/2, and 5/4/3, Bridges further discloses that the sealing unit comprises a close contact means to increase a contact force at a contact surface thereof (as observed in the above figures, the gasket part 60 and the sealing pad part 40 are cross-hatched to indicate a material of rubber; rubber is a visco-elastic material and therefore objects made from rubber possess a coefficient of friction that increases with pressure, i.e. as the body part is tightened, contact force will increase).

13. In regard to claims 6/1, 6/2, and 6/3, Bridges further discloses in Figure 4, above, that each of the coupling parts comprises a bending part.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kreku et al (U.S. 4,583,770) and Bridges (U.S. 5,769,467).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jay R. Ripley whose telephone number is 571-272-7535. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00AM - 3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



J. R. Ripley
29 MAY 2007



Daniel P. Stodola

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